

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WARSAW 01505 101529Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W

----- 072538

R 101435Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0195

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 1505

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PL, UR

SUBJECT: TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF 20TH CPSU CONGRESS

REF: MOSCOW 2988

1. IN IT SVOLUMINOUS REPORTING AND COMMENTARY RELATED TO THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS, THE POLISH CENTRAL PRESS HAS IGNORED THE 20TH CONGRESS ANNIVERSARY. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE "LIQUIDATION OF THE PERSONALITY CULT" IN THE CONTEXT OF ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY-THE DEATH OF POLISH PZPR FOUNDER BOLESŁAW BIERUT ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 11/12 TWENTY YEARS AGO.

2. THE DISCUSSION APPEARED IN AN ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 6 ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY POLITYKA. THE ARTICLE,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WARSAW 01505 101529Z

A GENERALLY FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF BIERUT BY HENRYK

RECHOWICZ, CONTENDS THAT BIERUT WAS A "DETERMINED ADVOCATE" OF THE LIQUIDATION OF THE PERSONALITY CULT AND A RETURN TO LENINIST NORMS AND PRINCIPLES AND EXPRESSED THIS VIEW FROM THE TRIBUNAL OF THE 20TH CPSU CONGRESS. IT FURTHER OBSERVES THAT, APART FROM THE CPSU ITSELF, NO OTHER PARTY STRIVED AS MUCH TO ELIMINATE THE EFFECTS OF THE PERSONALITY CULT AS DID THE PZPR. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT THE PROCESS WAS BEGUN UNDR BIERUT'S DIRECTION AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND PZPR PLENUM. (COMMENT: THE REFERENCE IS TOT THE THIRD PLENUM WHICH WAS HELD IN JANUARY 1955. END COMMENT.) THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUED, THOUGH INCONSISTENTLY, AND AN IMPORTANT STATE IN THE PROCESS WAS THE PREPARATION FOR THE 20TH CPSU CONGRESS. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT BIERUT'S OWN UNTIMELY DEATH SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE 20TH CONGRESS PREVENTED HIM FROM UNDERTAKING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THAT CONGRESS.

3. COMMENT: BIERUT, A PERSONALITY SELDOM MENTIONED THESE DAYS, PRESIDED OVER THE MERGER OF THE POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN 1948. HIS RULE FROM THAT TIME UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1956 IS GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE "STALINIST" PERIOD IN POLAND. AN UPDATED HISTORY OF THE POLISH WORKERS'S MOVEMENT PUBLISHED IN 1974 TREATS REPRESENTATIVE ASPECTS OF THIS PERIOD AND THE PERSONALITY CULT IN VERY NEGATIVE TERMS. IT CREDITS THE THIRD PLENUM WITH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INITIATING CORRECTIVE MEASURES BUT DOES NOT MENTION BIERUT. IN CLEARLY PORTRAYING HIM AS AN OPPONENT OF THE PERSONALITY CULT, THE POLITYKA ARTICLE REPRESENTS A STEP TOWARD THE REHABILITATION OF BIERUT.

DAVIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PARTY MEETINGS, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976WARSAW01505
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760091-0350
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760373/aaaacmsv.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 2988
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF 20TH CPSU CONGRESS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PL, UR, (BIERUT, BOLESZAW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006